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THE

Medical Miſcellany:

Or a COLLECTION of

Caſes, Tracts, *and* Commentaries;

EXHIBITING

A VIEW of the PRESENT STATE

OF

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Medical *and* Chirurgical Practice *and* Literature in *England*.

Cum conſtemus ex animo & corpore, corporis curandi tuendique cauſa quæſita ſit ars ejus atque utilitas deorum immortalium inventioni conſecrata.

Cic. Tuſc. Quæſt.

LONDON:

Printed for the Author; and ſold by W. NICOLL, in St. *Paul's* Church-yard. 1768.

INTRODUCTION.

THE deſign of this work is to communicate to the public, from time to time, Caſes and Obſervations in Phyſic and Surgery, which the author hath collected either in the courſe of his own reading and practice, or which he may receive from the kind information of others. The ultimate end being to range in proper order ſuch materials as may afford amuſement and improvement to thoſe who are ſolicitous in promoting the honour and intereſt of the medical art, in all it various branches. But as the author is conſcious of his own inſufficiency to conduct an undertaking of this extenſive nature, in the manner he could wiſh without ſome aſſiſtance, he therefore begs leave to explain, as clearly and conciſely as poſſible, the method he propoſes to follow in this publication, that from the arrangement of the work gentlemen may better judge what part of it is moſt adapted to their reſpective taſte, and from thence take their choice in what manner to contribute towards the ſupport and continuation of this Miſcellany.

Upon conſidering the many difficulties that muſt unavoidably occur in ſyſtematical writing, difficulties, obvious both on account of the great variety of elaborate works already publiſhed, which

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are, from their acknowledged merit, become the ſtandards by which our practice is regulated, and on account of his own inability, the author reſolved to exerciſe himſelf in an inferior department. Indeed it is often matter of extreme aſtoniſhment to him, on viewing the voluminous productions of ſome writers in phyſic, both antient and modern, to find that they had ſo much ſpare time to employ in compiling their works: either their genius muſt excel, or their manner of life muſt totally differ from the preſent; for now, even a moderate ſhare of practice, followed with that attention and aſſiduity which are daily requiſite to obtain ſucceſs and reputation, (interrupted as we are by various avocations in life, by ceremony and the cuſtoms of the world, and embarraſſed by oppoſition and difficulties) will hardly allow ſufficient time for any man to range his reflexions and obſervations in ſuch order as to aſſiſt even himſelf, in his future practiſe; much leſs is it to be expected that what he commits ſo haſtily to memory, can be rendered worthy the acceptance or the regard of the public.

For theſe and various other reaſons, the title of *Miſcellany* was thought moſt ſuitable to this undertaking; becauſe in a collection of this nature, which is not compoſed in any preciſe order or method, and which does not require great genius or depth of erudition, the author imagined he might with more advantage employ ſome portion of

of his leiſure hours; and beſides, he could by this means give every gentleman an opportunity of obliging the public with ſuch caſes and obſervations as are deemed worth preſerving from oblivion: for it would be juſtly thought an abſurd preſumption in any one man, however eminent for genius, or improved by ſtudy or practice, to attempt carrying on, alone, for any long ſpace of time, a work whoſe eſſential merit conſiſts ſo much in variety. Either his ability, his time, or his facts muſt fail him; therefore, the continuation of this Miſcellany depends, in a great meaſure, upon the aſſiſtance of others. What materials the author hath already collected, will be offered to the public, till the whole ſtock is exhauſted, and if no ſupplies come in, the book muſt ſoon be cloſed.

The author having thus made known his deſign, and alſo confeſſed his weakneſs, yet preſumes to eſteem it a particular felicity, that the zeal which animates him in this labour, will not give him the leaſt uneaſineſs if he does not meet with ſucceſs. Indifferent as he is to fame, and not aiming at profit, but on the contrary incurring expence, he reſts his claim to encouragement upon his diſintereſtedneſs in both theſe points. So precarious does the attempt appear, even to his own underſtanding, that he hath not yet diſcovered his name or his intention even to his neareſt intimates; chuſing rather firſt to try what reception his ſcheme meets with from the world, than to in-

volve any friend in an unſucceſsful enterprize. Indeed the concealment of his name is prudent on many accounts: by ſome an author is conſidered as a term of reproach, by ſome of ridicule, and by others he is made an object of envy: beſides, when a man's name is known, his opinions frequently loſe their weight; nor can he ſafely exerciſe his genius with that freedom as is neceſſary, eſpecially if he ſhould call in queſtion eſtabliſhed cuſtoms, or errors (which are often times terms ſynonymous) or if he ſhould diſſent from ſome modes of practice, or forms of preſcription, liberties which he claims a right of exerciſing upon proper occaſions. Unknown therefore as he is at preſent, unacquainted with the *arts of book-making*, deſirous only of preparing the way for others, he ſubmits his plan to the conſideration of the public, hoping that ſome more able hand will offer to ſhare the trouble with him, and ſome correſpondents generouſly afford him the aſſiſtance he ſolicits.

The author will not preſume to urge the encouragement given to medical eſſays as a proof of the propriety of this undertaking: he is ſenſible of the difference that muſt unavoidably appear between this occaſional production, and the collected labours of many, eſpecially where the moſt celebrated geniuſes in phyſic contributed to one general deſign;* when men, whoſe names would do

* Vid. London Medical Eſſays.

honour

honour to any collection, united their efforts under the ſuperintendance of a ſelect few whoſe province it was to range into proper order the rich materials which were crowded upon them. What pity it is that ſo excellent a work ſhould be ſo long diſcontinued! Such publications are undoubtedly uſeful to the community, and although this preſent work will be deemed by ſome a feeble and ineffectual effort to eſtabliſh a medical correſpondence, yet in ſpite of all diſcouragements the author ventures to proceed. He attempts only to hold a ruſh-light, as it were, to thoſe great luminaries of ſcience who move in a higher ſphere; contented, if in his little orb, he can collect ſufficient ſupplies to keep his glimmering taper alive, and attract ſome degree of notice from the public, tho' he pretends to ſhine only with borrowed luſtre.

The author cannot help remarking that his work commences at an unfortunate period, when the unhappy diviſions amongſt many of the faculty, between the Fellows and Licentiates of the college, will doubtleſs engage too much the attention of the public: all theſe diſſentions are in the higheſt degree prejudicial to ſcience; they expoſe the profeſſors of both parties to much illiberal abuſe; and what is worſe, in proportion as the true ſons of *Æſculapius* are degraded in the eyes of the world, that numerous and ſpurious race, known by the denomination of Quacks, will increaſe and gain ground, will more and more infeſt the whole king-

dom, to the ſcandal of the profeſſion, and the great injury of the community. It is againſt theſe ignorant pretenders that our weapons ſhould be drawn, and not againſt ourſelves about mere forms, * when the common enemy incroaches ſo inſolently upon our eſſential rights. But let us decline entering any deeper into this diſagreeable ſubject, it being the fixed reſolution of the author of theſe ſheets to obſerve the ſtricteſt nutrality in all controverſies whatever, and leave the paſſions of mankind to ſubſide of themſelves.

It is now high time to come to the matter in hand, and to explain the method in which it is propoſed to conduct this work. The title of it in ſome meaſure points out the deſign. It is intended as a Repoſitory of Caſes, Obſervations, and Criticiſms, comprehending every branch in Phyſic. If the remark of a very eminent genius be true, that he who knows the moſt facts, and has the greateſt preſence of mind, is indiſputedly the beſt phyſician, then of courſe facts will deſerve the preference: and indeed, whoever rightly conſiders the infinite diverſity in phyſical caſes, oftentimes inexplicable from any theory laid down, will be convinced how much depends upon a careful obſervance and inveſtigation of ſymptoms as they ariſe, and how much ſucceſs is obtained in conſequence of a ſagacity improved by practice, which immediately decides our conduct in ſudden emer-

* To Dr. ——, *Et tu, Fili!*

gencies,

gencies, and unuſual appearances. In the firſt place therefore a true relation of caſes will be acceptable; from theſe ſuch reaſonings may be afterwards deduced as to explain, upon juſt principles, from the knowledge of the human ſtructure, the cauſes, and at the ſame time teach us the means of curing diſeaſes.

Moreover, in reſpect to phyſical caſes, we have the ſame advantage as in all other facts; the account of them is obvious, is eaſily drawn up; whatever is moſt uſeful in the world is generally attainable by every capacity. We have no more to do than to obſerve the ſtricteſt regard to truth, and to relate what really appears: if we attach ourſelves to any particular ſyſtem, hypotheſis, or opinion, it is almoſt impoſſible to avoid partiality, and endeavouring to make facts bend to theory: this would render our evidence ſuſpected, of no validity or uſe, and our credit would of courſe be intirely overthrown. But when in conſequence of diligent attention in practice, we faithfully relate every ſymptom of a diſeaſe as it appears to us, then each caſe becomes a uſeful leſſon both to ourſelves and to others: Such is the ſuperiority in point of real uſe which facts obtain over theory: the firſt afford us the beſt materials for the foundation of knowledge, the other may furniſh ornaments for the ſuperſtructure, tho' care muſt be taken that it does not miſlead us from the true deſign. The hiſtory of caſes is philoſophy teaching by examples,

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the ſtudy of theory, unleſs founded on facts, is at beſt but a ſplendid oſtentation of learning, whereby our imaginations may indeed be agreeably amuſed, but at the ſame time our experience little improved, or our judgment corrected.

To facts, obſervations may properly ſucceed: theſe are of various kinds; many, and thoſe the moſt uſeful perhaps, are furniſhed by facts themſelves pointing out the cauſes of ſuch and ſuch ſymptoms, enabling us to reaſon by analogy concerning their effects in other caſes; explaining the propriety or impropriety of the means uſed, the efficacy or inefficacy of medicines, proving by the event what is proper to be done in ſimilar exigencies, and eſtabliſhing from the whole ſuch a theory as may aſſiſt us in forming a right judgment how to act upon moſt occaſions. Remarks made from theſe principles are both curious and edifying; and from the ſame ſource our obſervations may be extended to every thing that relates to the profeſſion in general; for inſtance, to the examination of phyſical books, to medicines and the different formulæ of them, to the various phænomena in nature, the conſtitution of the air in different places and the prevailing diſeaſes, and indeed may be ſo diverſified as to furniſh ample inſtruction and amuſement even to the moſt learned and experienced practitioners: to be confined to any one part or branch of the profeſſion would by no means anſwer the deſign of this work, which admits

mits of boundleſs variety. We may obſerve, that notwithſtanding all our improvements, inventions, and corrections, numberleſs abſurdities ſtill prevail which ought to be eradicated; likewiſe new modes of practice from the fluctuation of faſhion often ſucceed to others for a time exploded; freſh diſcoveries too remain to be made; and amongſt the great number of human minds exerciſed in this profeſſion, ſome efforts of genius may appear, an account of all which properly collected, will form both a uſeful and entertaining hiſtory.

From this extenſive field of obſervation, it is propoſed to enter into the regions of criticiſm: of this both antient and modern medical books are the proper ſubjects; and that theſe will frequently afford ſufficient matter for enquiry, is obvious enough to any perſon who conſiders how much our education, our ſentiments, and our practice are influenced by what we read. If therefore, upon peruſing any author, to whoſe works a general eſtabliſhed reputation hath given a higher ſanction, ſome paſſages appear controvertible, or if any latent excellencies ſtrike us, either of theſe effects will be ſufficient motives for us to examine them with more accuracy, and to confute or illuſtrate in ſuch a manner as beſt to ſerve the end of inſtruction; but more eſpecially will that criticiſm be uſeful which derives from what is read ſome practical inferences which can be adapted and applied to immediate and neceſſary purpoſes,

confirming us in the proſecution of right meaſures, or reſtraining us from errors. Without ſuch application as this, our criticiſms will be of no more uſe than the many volumes of learned lumber which crowd our libraries, ſerving only to divert our attention, flatter our vanity, and waſte our time in pedantic and fruitleſs reſearches.

But beſides thoſe general and critical remarks which may occaſionally occur, it is propoſed to give in each number of this Miſcellany, an impartial review of new medical productions: this part of the work will be executed with all imaginable caution and tenderneſs; for where a conſcious ſenſe of our own imperfection prevails, lenity to others is moſt becoming; neither indeed does it appear by what legal right or authority any one man, or any particular ſet of men, can preſume to conſtitute themſelves ſupreme judges, and to erect a tribunal, before which authors like delinquents are brought, and their works examined without reference to a proper jury; even oftentimes approved or condemned by a deciſion of judgment as erroneous as that of other men in general, perhaps influenced in ſome reſpects by national partiality, or particular connections and prejudices, failings inſeparable from human nature. In this Miſcellany, therefore, that ſpecies of criticiſm ſhall have the preference which conſiſts in ſelecting what is uſeful or agreeable in an author, leaving the invidious taſk of finding out faults to others;

others; reſerving at the ſame time a privilege of examining with freedom his opinions, in order to do juſtice to the public. Nor is this mentioned with the leaſt intent of depreciating the labours of thoſe critics who have ſo long and ſo uſefully informed the world, but deſigned merely as a declaration of neutrality, conformable to the original ſcheme of this work.

But the moſt difficult part of this introduction ſtill remains to be executed and that is, to make an apology for perſiſting in this undertaking, eſpecially as the *London* Medical Eſſays are now publiſhed again. The truth is, the greateſt part of the firſt number of this Miſcellany was ready for the preſs before the third volume of the *London* Medical Eſſays was advertiſed; and although the author intended his performance as a ſubſtitute (however unequal) to that elaborate and excellent work, yet upon ſecond reflection it will appear preſumptuous in him to conſider it in that light, on account of the manifeſt inferiority of his attempt in compariſon to the united labours of that learned body, ſo ably diſplayed in thoſe eſſays. Therefore other reaſons muſt be given for this publication, amongſt which the principal is, the opportunity afforded hereby of more frequent communication of caſes and obſervations, ſome of which would probably loſe their effect as examples, if delayed and kept ſecret from year to year.

It is true indeed that in a *monthly** publication, the ſame accuracy, learning, and ability, cannot be expected as in a work which appears *annually*, or *triennially* only, wherein the materials being carefully ſelected and well digeſted, and compiled too by men of great eminence in the profeſſion, muſt conſequently appear with all poſſible advantages to the public. What then can reaſonably be expected from this preſent attempt? Far be it from the author to aim at concealing his weakneſs, or to impoſe on the world by falſe pretenſions: he does not, he cannot preſume to arrive at *excellence*; but he yet flatters himſelf that he may contribute to *uſe*. There are different degrees of merit, the leaſt of which, if he can attain, his endeavours will be ſufficiently rewarded. Beſides it is to be obſerved, that thoſe caſes which are uncommon, curious, and well drawn up (as the expreſſion is) ſeem chiefly calculated for the learned and not for general inſtruction; becauſe they do not ſo immediately relate to common practice, nor are they properly adapted to inferior capacities. Therefore by opening a door to more frequent and familiar correſpondence, and by publiſhing plain and inſtructive caſes, with practical obſervations and remarks for the uſe of the juniors in the profeſſion, the author hopes to

* Every third month the author deſigns to publiſh, if his time and his materials will allow; if not *occaſionally* only, as circumſtances may happen.

accompliſh

accompliſh his deſign by the kind aſſiſtance which he may receive from various hands; for this Miſcellany will afford an ample ſcope for the exerciſe of every mind. Whatever is moſt conducive to the welfare of ſociety and to the promoting of ſcience; whatever principles of practice are founded upon truth, reaſon, and experience, ought to be inculcated as often and as forcibly as poſſible: thoſe caſes and obſervations threfore that confirm us in theſe principles will be highly uſeful, as adding the teſtimony of theſe times to the wiſdom of former*. To a plan thus extenſive all are invited to contribute; gentlemen who have ſerved abroad in the late wars, practitioners reſiding in the different provinces of this kingdom, may from the variety of materials which their employments muſt undoubtedly have furniſhed them with in their reſpective ſituations, mutually oblige the public and themſelves, by communicating their obſervations. All that the author would wiſh is to be a faithful compiler, and to afford the world that ſatisfaction from the labours of others, which he deſpairs of giving by his own.

Before he concludes, the author thinks proper to offer his opinion concerning the utility of admitting foreign performances into this collection; for although he is ſenſible that genius and ſcience

* And beſides many valuable pieces may here be publiſhed with advantage, which of themſelves are not ſufficient to form a pamphlet.

cannot

cannot properly be confined to any one country, yet to ſuch a ſtate of pefection is the medical art arrived in *England*, as to require very little aſſiſtance or improvement from other nations. Whoever is converſant in the hiſtory of the progreſs of phyſic in this iſland, from the immortal *Harvey* to the preſent time, will find this obſervation verified, both in reſpect to the many important diſcoveries made by our countrymen, and likewiſe from many excellent writings here publiſhed, by which means both the theory and practice of phyſic and ſurgery have received the higheſt advantages. And again, it muſt be remarked, that great caution is requiſite to prevent too implicit a belief being haſtily given to the extravagant aſſertions in favour of the virtues of ſome plants and medicines recommended from abroad, by which we have already been impoſed upon. Such men as *De Haen* or *Storck*, however eminent they may be, and whatever influence they may obtain over the minds of the people in arbitrary countries, are to be regarded here, only in proportion as experience may confirm the truth and validity of their doctrines.*

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* In reſpect to the *Cicuta* and *Uva Urſi*, our experience fairly tried, produces no abſolute proofs of their efficacy; many alterations will indeed happen in chronical and inveterate diſeaſes which cannot with certainty be attributed to the medicines made uſe of, but may ariſe from conſtitutional changes. As to ſpeculative points argued in ſome foreign publi-

Therefore it will be proper to reſtrain ſomewhat of that fondneſs and credulity which induce men to admit too much; though at the ſame time we would not be actuated by prejudices equally blameable, or refuſe our aſſent to thoſe opinions and obſervations which reaſon and practice prove true, from whatever country or perſons they may be derived.

Laſtly, the author begs leave to obſerve, that as all human productions, eſpecially in their infancy, muſt be imperfect, therefore more lenity and indulgence from the candid public is requeſted, till the deficiencies of this work, both in variety and in matter, can be ſupplied by the auxiliary contributions which gentlemen of ſkill and experience in the profeſſion may be pleaſed to ſend. It is the expectation of receiving more valuable materials than what he hath at preſent collected, which prompts the author to adopt this mode of publication in ſeparate numbers, and at diſtant intervals of time. For by this means the work will be rendered more correct, ſo that the productions of thoſe who kindly lend aſſiſtance to it, may appear in a manner conſiſtent with the credit and reputation due to their names and characters. Therefore if this firſt eſſay meets with a favourable re-

publications, we confeſs ourſelves not more edified by the diſputes about irritability, than by the late contention here at home concerning the diſcovery of the *Lymphatics*.

ception,

ception, the author intends to give four numbers in the ſpace of the year, to complete a volume for 1768, and he begs leave to aſſure the public, that no pains will be ſpared on his part to make this work correſpond with its title, as *exhibiting an impartial View of the preſent State of Medical and Chirurgical Practice and Literature in* England.

☞ Gentlemen who chooſe to communicate caſes and obſervations in any branch of the medical art (to be inſerted in this Miſcellany) are deſired to direct their letters to the author of the M. M. at Mr. *Wm. Nicoll*'s, bookſeller, in St. *Paul*'s Church-yard, *London*.

ERRATA.

Page vi, for indiſputedly, *read* indiſputably.
Page 19, 30, 34, for proſtrate, *read* proſtate.
Page 37, for ſuſtible, *read* ſuſceptible.

THE

THE

Medical Miſcellany.

Medical *and* Chirurgical Caſes.

Obſervations on extracting the Placenta.

IT ſometimes happens that the *Placenta* adheres ſo ſtrongly to the uterus as to occaſion the utmoſt difficulty in extracting it; inſomuch that the ordinary methods recommended for this purpoſe will not ſucceed; at the ſame time the prevailing prejudices of the women will not ſuffer practitioners to leave the Placenta for a time, and wait for the aſſiſtance of nature in this important buſineſs; but inſtead of this they are compelled to exert exceſſive violence, and bring away the Placenta at all events, to avoid thoſe cruel and unjuſt imputations which would otherwiſe injure their characters. Now in order to ſhew the extreme danger of too much precipitancy in theſe caſes, it is proper to bring the beſt authority we can; for which purpoſe a quotation from the celebrated

Ruyſch, relative to this ſubject, may prove a uſeful memoir, and more acceptable on this occaſion, becauſe the works of that author are not in many hands. It is preſumed unneceſſary however to give an exact and literal tranſlation of the whole chapter, but only to ſelect ſuch parts as contain the ſubſtance of his arguments concerning the point in queſtion. "Give me leave, (ſaith this "great * anatomiſt) to reſtrain that too buſy haſte "and anxiety in extracting the Placenta, which "often prove fatal in their conſequences; for this "being conſidered as an extraneous ſubſtance, "belonging to the fœtus, and not to the mother, "hath led practitioners to conclude, that it is "indiſpenſably neceſſary to extract it immediately after delivering the child. But it happens, "that from the convex ſurface of the Placenta, "fitted to the concave part of the uterus, the adheſion is frequently ſo ſtrong as to render both "one ſubſtance; in which caſe it becomes doubtful how to act, whether it is moſt eligib'e to "leave the Placenta for ſome little time in the "uterus, or to uſe extreme violence to bring it "away; that opinion carries great weight which "perſuades us to uſe cool deliberation in this circumſtance, to avoid deſtroying, by too much "haſte and temerity, a life which a prudent delay "might probably ſave. I am ſenſible that ſome "famous authors have advanced an opinion, that "if the Placenta is left in the uterus the woman

* *Ruyſch*, Adverſar. Anatom. Dec. 11. Obſerv. 10.

"will

" will be indangered; and I know very well mid-
" wives exert all their ſkill and force to extract it,
" in order to ſatisfy the friends of the patient:
" but I have too much reaſon to pity the miſe-
" rable women, who are frequently injured by ſuch
" haſty treatment; for immediately upon this
" the abdomen becomes hard and ſwells, a conti-
" nual fever attends, and death often follows.
" *Parey*, *Portal*, *Mauriceau*, and others, have giv-
" en us inſtructions in general how to extract the
" Placenta, but they have not been ſufficiently
" explicit in this particular and unuſual exigence.
" Caſes have occurred to me in which it was
" morally impoſſible, without imminent danger of
" death, to ſeparate the Placenta immediately
" from the uterus: in one circumſtance a ſtrong
" ſpaſmodic contraction of the uterus ſucceeds
" the birth of the child, forming a ſtricture ſo
" high up as to be almoſt out of the reach of the
" arm, and ſo extremely cloſe as ſcarce to admit
" a finger, at the ſame time the Placenta is con-
" fined beyond this ſtricture, and adheres very
" ſtrongly to the uterus: How then is it poſſible
" to extract this large maſs without uſing dange-
" rous violence? And this violence, to my know-
" ledge, hath occaſioned the ſudden death of ſome
" women, while the over buſy midwife, as if glo-
" rying in her performance, ſhews to the atten-
" dants the Placenta entire and uninjured by her
" hands. It happens likewiſe in ſome caſes, that
" tho' the *os uteri* is ſufficiently open, yet the ad-
" heſion of the Placenta is as ſtrong as if it had

" become one ſubſtance with the uterus; now if " in conſequence of coughing and ſtraining, or " after repeated trials by introducing the finger in " the direction of the funis, and endeavouring to " perforate or ſeparate the Placenta with caution, " we fail in our purpoſe, it appears to me moſt " adviſeable to deſiſt from any farther attempts " at preſent, and to leave it behind till nature of " herſelf (as frequently happens) brings it away. " but it will be ſaid in objection to this, that the " woman is not delivered while the Placenta re- " mains behind: I allow this; but of two evils " ought we not to chuſe the leaſt? And is it not " more prudent to leave the Placenta in ſuch caſes " till nature ſeparates it, or till a more favour- " able opportunity occurs, rather than deſtroy " the patient by haſty violence? Better certainly " that the woman ſhould live with the Placenta " remaining, than die in conſequence of forcibly " extracting it. The Placenta is part of the fœ- " tus, and not of the mother, and nature, always " intent upon her own preſervation, will, by in- " credible efforts and expedients, free herſelf from " all extraneous bodies that are hurtful; and " therefore ſhe will at length diſcharge the Pla- " centa, even when it hath been detained twenty " or twenty-five days in the uterus after delivery " of the child. Believe me, I ſpeak from truth " and experience, that out of ſixteen caſes in " which the Placenta was left behind, nature " freed herſelf in fifteen of them: thus, though " the Placenta ſhould be left (a circumſtance

" however

" however that happens but ſeldom) the conſe-
" quences would not be ſo bad as commonly
" imagined: but ſtill the cry is, how can the wo-
" man be ſafe if the Placenta is left behind! I
" confeſs it is a deſirable thing to have it brought
" away, provided that can be done without put-
" ting life to the hazard; but ſuppoſing it re-
" mains, what will be the conſequence? Why the
" uterus by perpetually contracting itſelf, endea-
" vours to regain its priſtine ſize and figure, and
" conſequently, by preſſing the Placenta, will mold
" it into a hard round maſs, and will finally ex-
" pel it in that ſhape.

" Some again are willing to perſuade Practi-
" tioners, that if the Placenta is not extracted, it
" ſoon becomes putrid, and will occaſion inflam-
" mation, gangrene, and death: but the caſe is
" not ſo; for this is not a part of the uterus, but
" of the fœtus as obſerved before: and I am con-
" vinced from numberleſs examples, that if the
" Placenta ſhould be ſuffered to remain, and its
" veſſels not ſoon ſeparated from the interior ſur-
" face of the uterus, yet it never is diſſolved into
" pus or ichor, or any putrid liquor: their fears
" therefore are groundleſs who ſuppoſe that a putrid
" exhalation may ariſe, and ſo far infect the maſs
" of blood as to occaſion hectic fevers, inflamma-
" tions, and other terrible miſchiefs. For if this was
" the conſequence, what would become of thoſe
" unhappy women who labour under the moſt ex-
" cruciating diſeaſe for ſome years; I mean a
" cancer of the uterus; now theſe patients ſurvive

" a long

" a long time, notwithſtanding an intolerable fœ-
" tor, which ſcarce permits any one to approach
" them, much leſs to examine minutely into the
" ſtate of the diſeaſe. All thoſe vulgar objec-
" tions therefore relative to the Placenta being
" left behind, are of no weight; and yet vulgar
" prejudice ſits as a judge and influences our con-
" duct: for what muſt a prudent midwife do,
" who uſes all proper methods and endeavours,
" and yet finds it impoſſible to extract the Pla-
" centa, without exerting ſuch violence as muſt
" unavoidably prove fatal to the mother? * Will
" not the women who are preſent at the labour,
" admoniſh, urge, cenſure, and threaten? Will
" not they accuſe the midwife of ignorance, and
" ſend for another whom they ſuppoſe more ſkil-
" ful? This will certainly be the caſe; and there-
" fore the midwife irritated and alarmed by theſe
" means, becomes quite deſperate, redoubles her
" efforts, and raſhly tearing away the Placenta,
" does fatal injury to the uterus. I deſerve cre-
" dit from phyſicians in this point, becauſe, dur-
" ing the ſpace of four years, I had extenſive and
" conſtant practice in midwifery in this great
" city; † and moreover, for forty years I exer-
" ciſed, by appointment of the magiſtrates, the
" office of ſuperintending the college of mid-
" wifery, to teach or examine all practitioners, to

* *Hippocrates* and others of the antients were averſe to the uſing of force in extracting the Placenta: quotations might be produced in great number upon this point, but the author is contented with mentioning barely the fact.

† *Amſterdam.*

" give

" give anſwers when conſulted in difficult caſes,
" and to open the bodies of thoſe who died in
" child-birth, in order that I might account for
" the cauſes of their death.

" Anatomiſts have not perhaps ſo accurately
" examined the ſtructure of the uterus as to diſ-
" cover that there are peculiar muſcular fibres
" belonging to it, ſo contrived as to diſengage and
" ſeparate by their action the convex ſurface of
" the Placenta from the concave part of the ute-
" rus. The Placenta generally adheres to the
" fundus uteri, in which part theſe orbicular fi-
" bres, very ſtrong in themſelves, and exerting
" their power according to their direction, con-
" tract the body of the uterus into rugæ; from
" which diſpoſition it follows, that thoſe parts of
" the Placenta which cannot be adapted to this
" altered ſurface, are of courſe looſened and ſhook
" off. A preparation of the uterus thus con-
" tracted, I have preſerved to demonſtrate the ex-
" iſtence of this orbicular muſcle to every one:
" it is obſervable that the other muſcular fibres
" of the uterus, are promiſcuouſly interwoven in
" different directions, that they may expel the fæ-
" tus by a general contraction, but this peculiar
" muſcle, from its ſituation and action, is intend-
" ed to force away the Placenta only." *

To account for this adheſion of the Placenta, *Ruyſch* ſays, " that the degree of force with which
" it does adhere, is according to the inſertion of

* The exiſtence of this *Muſculus Orbicularis* is doubted by ſome, but the matter is not worth a controverſy.

" the

" the funis, the nearer the centre the greater the
" adheſion, and *vice verſa*, the nearer the circum-
" ference the eaſier it is extracted. The gene-
" ral rule is, to looſen firſt the edges of the Pla-
" centa; but notwithſtanding this precaution,
" the adheſion is frequently ſo ſtrong as to render
" the ſeparation by force impracticable or dan-
" gerous, and therefore we ought to wait a few
" hours, till the efforts of nature bring it away.
" I do not mean by theſe obſervations to make
" midwives negligent or irreſolute; far from it;
" the Placenta undoubtedly ought to be extracted
" if we can do it with ſafety; every motive com-
" pels us to it; the women will never be ſatisfied
" till it is brought away: their prejudices in this
" point are inſurmountable, and they will not al-
" low the juſt rules of art to take place for the
" welfare of the patient; therefore I was ap-
" pointed by the magiſtrates to ſtem this torrent
" by ſome ſuperior authority, as well as I
" could."

So far it has been thought proper to quote this author; and indeed the whole chapter is well worth our peruſal, excluſive of ſome trifling, to which this great man was now and then addicted.

Supported by ſo conſiderable an authority, and likewiſe convinced of the truth of theſe obſervations by many practical inſtances, I think it may be neceſſary to conſider this important matter with more attention: In the firſt place therefore I will offer ſome conjectures as to the cauſe of this extraordinary

traordinary adheſion of the Placenta. *Ruyſch** we ſee attributes it to the inſertion of the funis exactly in the centre of the Placenta. But practice does not confirm this opinion; it appeared to me from ſome unfortunate caſes, that the cauſe proceeded from a diſtempered habit during geſtation, particularly in women advanced beyond the middle period of life, and in ſuch whoſe employment was laborious, and whoſe diet was coarſe and improper for their ſituation†: In all theſe a putrid diſpoſition of the fluids was obſerved to be moſt prevalent, and this very frequently in conſequence of an abſorption of the contained impure humours by the bibulous pores of the uterus: and it is no improbable ſuppoſition from the very nature of the connexion between the Placenta and the uterus, that by means of the ſame power of abſorption, the veſſels of the former may be more and more firmly united and interwoven with the ſubſtance of the latter. Surgeons have obſerved ſimilar effects in wounds and abſceſſes from abſorption, inſomuch that the lint itſelf, upon which the firſt dreſſing is ſpread, hath been found not only ſticking very cloſe to the ſurface of a wound, but

* In vol. 1, Obſerv. 97, he gives his opinion more expreſſly in this matter.

† In theſe the growth of the fœtus is comparatively ſlow, the ſecretion of the humours in the uterus imperfect, occaſioning various difficulties in delivery. "Nimirum ob pa-
"buli ubertatem vel inopiam corporis robur vel imbecillita-
"tem; vitæque (ſecundum ſex res medicis non naturales
"dictas) rectum regimen, vel inordinatum, fœtus etiam ſe-
"rius aut citius ad maturitatem ſive partum perducun-
"tur." *Harv. Exercit. de Partu.*

likewiſe drawn in amongſt the fleſhy fibres themſelves: if therefore this abſorbing power in the veſſels prevails ſo ſtrongly in the extremities of the body, and operates upon foreign matter applied to wounds, how much greater muſt the effect of it be in the warm cavity of the uterus, eſpecially upon a ſubſtance by nature intimately joined to it? By conſidering the matter in this light, it will evidently appear that the cauſe of the preternatural adheſion of the Placenta is not merely accidental or local, but that it ariſes from a more dangerous ſource, from a diſeaſed conſtitution, and therefore the conſequences are more to dreaded; and the operator who prudently endeavours to correct this bad diſpoſition of the body, and avoids uſing exceſſive violence in extracting the Placenta, deſerves praiſe and not cenſure.*

Several caſes might be produced by the writer of this paper to confirm his opinion in reſpect to the difficulty in queſtion:—On *April* 1, 1767, he was ſent for to a woman near her time, who laboured under the attack of a fever; the ſymptoms appeared extremely ſimilar to thoſe which ariſe frequently from deep and latent abſceſſes in the body, and from abſorbed matter in wounds, par-

* Is this abſorption of humours, or of matter, the cauſe or the effect of a putrid habit of body? I ſhould ſuppoſe the latter; and if ſo, external force or application will be ineffectual; in wounds where the diſcharge is ill conditioned, Mr. *Kirkland*, an ingenious ſurgeon, recommends ſponge to be applied in order to abſorb the matter, but if that matter is generated in conſequence of a bad diſpoſition of the body, we muſt firſt endeavour to correct the habit, and the effect will ceaſe of courſe.

ticularly

ticularly after amputations; namely ſhiverings, exceſſive heat and thirſt, a very dry tongue, intermitting and wandering pains ſometimes in the ſide, more frequently in the head, affecting the membranes of the brain, and a diarrhea.—By proper methods uſed, ſhe got better, but labour came on ſooner than we wiſhed, and proved very tedious and lingering; indeed the operator expected this in conſequence of the fever, which he ſuppoſed to proceed from abſorption in the uterus: after conſtant pains for four and twenty hours, and the child being long detained in the birth, the woman was at length delivered, and the operator immediately tracing the funis, endeavoured to bring away the Placenta; but by no means, after repeated trials, could he ſucceed. It was propoſed to leave it to nature, and to preſcribe proper medicines; but theſe expedients the women abſolutely condemned, and ſent for another practitioner, who made prodigious efforts, hoping to accompliſh what the former had given up. He brought away ſome fibrous ſubſtance, but it was impoſſible to diſtinguiſh what it was; hereupon it was agreed to deſiſt from any more violence, and wait the event under a proper regimen aſſiſted by medicines: after an interval of five days, and much anxiety and diſcontent, the Placenta came away, tho' not altogether compact and entire. Mean time the abdomen ſwelled, owing no doubt to the violence uſed to the uterus, ſymptoms of internal mortification came on, and the next day after the Placenta was diſcharg'd the woman died.

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In another caſe an eminent practitioner was call'd in by a midwife, who had inverted the uterus by endeavouring to extract the Placenta, altho' ſhe haſtily reduced it again; after due examination he declared it impoſſible to diſtinguiſh one part from another, and declined uſing any more force. —The patient was evidently of a bad habit of body, and ſeveral ſymptoms of a putrid fever from abſorption appeared; proper medicines were ordered, but notwithſtanding all poſſible care ſhe loſt her life.

The writer of this was called in to another caſe, where he found the woman (a perſon about forty years of age, big with her ſecond child, and who had ſuffered ſeverely during her firſt pregnancy) afflicted with lingering pains and feveriſh ſymptoms; there was reaſon to apprehend premature labour, which accordingly came on, and proved extremely tedious: after delivering the child, the Placenta was found very ſtrongly adhering, which the operator not being able to extract, he left it till the next day, and even then, as no remarkable pains came on, he omitted meddling with it; on the third day it was brought away very eaſily; but the putrid diſpoſition of habit, which was the cauſe of the patient's malady, ſtill continuing, and the fever increaſing, ſhe died the 21ſt day after delivery. In reſpect to the lochial diſcharge, no material deficiency was obſerved, and the abdomen never ſwelled.

Our apprehenſions of the future difficulties which may probably ariſe from a putrid diſpoſition

of

of body in the patient from abſorption, and from adheſion of the Placenta, are confirmed when we find the labour pains lingering and ineffectual; becauſe it is reaſonable to infer, that the expulſive power of the uterus is weakened and obſtructed by the Placenta in ſuch caſes; and we frequently are embarraſſed by the child being retained almoſt upon the point of delivery, for a long time, from the cauſe here mentioned. In reſpect to thoſe difficulties which are occaſioned by wrong preſentations of the child, by rigidity and tightneſs of the external parts, they are more eaſily ſurmounted; becauſe the uterus in itſelf remains in a proper ſtate, capable of exerting ſufficient force, and in turning caſes, will ſuſtain amazing violence without much injury, and ſoon regain its priſtine tone and figure. But where the uterus has been affected, the humours abſorbed, and the circulating fluids hereby vitiated, we have reaſon to fear an unfavourable event.* For ſuppoſe, in extracting the Placenta, mere force prevails, how is the cauſe itſelf remedied? What point do we gain in reſpect to the conſtitutional infirmity? We may indeed ſatisfy ſome ignorant attendants by the ſight of

* "Pariter obſtetricibus expertis non ignotum, mulieres "aliquando conceptum integrum, cum ambientibus mem- "branis illæſis, excludere; atque hujuſmodi partus videtur "maxime naturalis, in quo fœtus, (tanquam fructus matu- "rus qui ab arbore totus ſolvitur, ſeminibus ante deſtinatum "a natura tempus minime effluentibus) una cum ſecundis "elabitur. Ubi enim ſecus fit, & Placenta poſt natum "fœtum utero adhereſcit, ea ſæpe difficulter ſolvitur, & pra- "va ſymptomata inducit.—*Harv. Exercit. de Partu.*

the

the Placenta, but as to the eſſential ſafety of the woman we gain but little, unleſs the antecedent cauſe is removed, as well as the apparent difficulty.

During the time of geſtation, in ſuſpected conſtitutions, it is incumbent upon us to keep a watchful eye over our patients, to regulate their diet and exerciſe, and to uſe immediate means on the appearance of any diſeaſe. As to the common inconveniences attending the enlargement of the uterus, they are eaſily remedied: nor have we ſo much reaſon to be alarmed by inflammatory as by putrid ſymptoms, by acute as by chronical diſorders; theſe latter prognoſticate fevers from abſorption, and difficult labours; and we muſt endeavour, if poſſible, to prevent the conſequences, and remove the root of the evil. When labour comes on, after ſuch circumſtances, and we find an unuſual ſtrong adheſion of the Placenta not to be ſeparated immediately, unleſs by exceſſive violence, let us wait awhile, to procure ſuch a truce from pain as to enable nature to aſſiſt herſelf, and try what can be done by venæſection, if the pulſe will bear it, by proper diluents, volatile acids, *

* The notion of ſome particular medicines, ſuch as the *Pulv. e Myrrh comp.* and others having a *forcing* power (as it is called) in the uterus, is erroneous: But on account of their cordial and antiſeptic qualities in putrid diſeaſes, and in the retention of the Placenta from thoſe cauſes, they may be preſcribed with advantage; I ſpeak not of their effects as fœtids. Thus emænagogues act as cordials ſucceſsfully, becauſe the ſuppreſſion of the menſes and other uterine affections often ariſe from putridity, for the menſes are abſorbed in a putrid habit, from the ſame cauſes as the Placenta adheres.

glyſters,

glyſters, the bark and opiates, in order to correct the bad ſtate of the body, which if we are able to accompliſh, the obſtructed veſſels will become pervious, the circulating fluids will be reſtored to their original purity, the fever will ſubſide, and of courſe the uterus will ſoon diſengage itſelf from the Placenta. But on the other hand, if we place our chief dependance upon force, and injure the uterus thereby, we ſhall then weaken thoſe very powers which are deſigned by nature to aſſiſt us upon ſuch emergencies. Theſe ſentiments are the reſult of practice, and are freely offered to the conſideration of the public, either to be confirmed by the joint experience of others, or confuted, if ſufficient arguments and proofs can be advanced againſt them, the principal deſign of the author being to contribute all in his power to the removal of thoſe unhappy prejudices, which too often influence our practice, and hurry us into fatal miſtakes; and ſince the writing of this memoir the author hath the ſatisfaction of finding his ſentiments conformable to the opinion of Dr. *Hunter* and Dr. *Harvie*.*

Remarkable Caſes of Inflammation of the Bladder and Suppreſſion of Urine, with the Method of Cure.

"*Aug.* 28. MR. —— having imprudently drank too freely in the evening, after "taking a doſe of ſalts, complained in the night

* Vid. Practical Directions, &c. by Dr. *Harvie*.

"of

" of a difficulty in making water, attended with " frequent motions to ſtool, which upon his " loſing blood twice that night, by purging, and " the uſe of the warm bath, was much abated the " next morning.

" *Aug.* 29. The efforts to make water were ve- " ry frequent, but the quantity diſcharged each " time was inconſiderable: this evening he was ap- " prehenſive of a ſuppreſſion, for which reaſon he " loſt more blood, and had a glyſter thrown up, " and took ſome opening medicines.

" *Aug.* 30. Was much better, and ſo far re- " lieved as to go abroad, but ſtill the frequency of " making water in ſmall quantities ſhewed that " the diſorder had not entirely left him, and ac- " cordingly,

" *Aug.* 31. About five o'clock in the morning " a total ſuppreſſion came on, and notwithſtand- " ing repeated bleedings, purgatives, glyſters, and " warm bathings, &c. it continued till eleven " o'clock, when the water was drawn off by the " catheter, to the quantity of ℔ iiſs.; he loſt more " blood about two hours afterwards, and the " ſame operation was repeated at night, glyſters " were thrown up, moderate doſes of opiates ad- " miniſtered, and the warm bathing frequently " uſed; notwithſtanding all which he paſſed a " very reſtleſs night, with frequent irritations and " ſpaſms.

" *Sept.* 1. About five o'clock this morning a " total ſuppreſſion returned, and altho' the cathe- " ter was with much difficulty paſſed into the

" bladder

" bladder three times, yet no water came away. " Recourſe was then had to opiates, gr. ſs. of " opium, every half hour, and towards night " gr. iv. every four hours; plaiſters of opium " were applied to the abdomen, perinæum, and " the region of the kidneys: the pains and ſpaſms " were violent and frequent during the whole " night, and about five in the morning, on

" *Sept.* 2. The ſpaſms were particularly ſevere, " and little or no urine was diſcharged: between " eight and nine o'clock a terrible rigor came on, " attended with a low pulſe, which continued to " ſink and intermit; at the ſame time the muſ- " cles of the face were convulſed, likewiſe a cold- " neſs of the limbs, faintneſs, cold ſweats, and la- " borious reſpiration, indicated the moſt extreme " danger. In this deſperate ſtate ſome warm port " wine was given him, and in the ſpace of an " hour he began to grow warmer, and by conti- " nuing the uſe of wine, a cordial and wine whey, " the pulſe began to riſe, the fatal ſymptoms went " off, and about one o'clock, after a ſpaſmodic " contraction, the bladder ſuddenly relaxed of it- " ſelf, and the urine unexpectedly came away in " conſiderable quantities. The patient afterwards " made water as uſual, without any difficulty, ex- " cept a ſoreneſs for two or three days, and being " in the flower of his age, ſoon recovered perfect " health."

This is the abſtract account of an extraordinary and dangerous caſe of an inflammation in the bladder, which it is proper to illuſtrate by the following re-

marks and obſervations, fairly deduced from the facts that happened:

Firſt, it was evident from experience in this caſe, that the introduction of the catheter was not attended with any eſſential advantage, but on the contrary might have been productive of much miſchief, by lacerating the parts in conſequence of the force exerted in puſhing the inſtrument into the bladder. This expedient was ſuggeſted from an erroneous ſuppoſition, that water retained in the bladder might be the cauſe of the diſeaſe in queſtion: but the impropriety of it was proved by the effects that enſued; for notwithſtanding three ſevere trials were made on *Sept.* 1, yet no water came away, but a ſtream of blood only iſſued from the wounded paſſage, leaving it doubtful in ſome meaſure whether the inſtrument had really penetrated into the cavity of the bladder or not. Now it ſeemed diſtinctly clear, from a due conſideration of the ſtate of the parts, that there was in fact little or no water then in the bladder; becauſe that organ was ſo much contracted in conſequence of the inflammation of it's internal coat, and the inceſſant ſpaſms occaſioned thereby, that no urine could be ſuffered to remain in it; for every drop which flowed from the ureters immediately excited freſh irritation in the bladder, with perpetual and painful efforts to diſcharge the contents: In this inflamed condition it was impoſſible for the urine to paſs, much leſs to ſtay in its uſual receptacle, but the greater part was by the violent preſſure of the contracted bladder forced back through other

emunctories

emunctories, especially through the pores of the skin, as was evident by the profuse sweats which the patient continually laboured under: and the same strong resistance was undoubtedly made to the entrance of the instrument, as occasioning still greater irritation in so sensible an organ in the state abovementioned; besides all the adjacent parts were affected by the same inflammatory symptoms, namely the rectum, the prostrate gland, and the whole canal of the urethra, with its continuous membrane, consequently the use of the instrument in such circumstances was improper.* What advantage could be obtained if there was no water to draw off? If the bladder could not bear a drop of urine without being affected by fresh spasms, how could the catheter be endured? And for the same reasons the puncture in perineo, recommended by some authors in total suppressions of urine, would have been not only unsuccessful but fatal. The danger of the disease we see did not consist in mere retention of urine, but in violent inflammation, for altho' the catheter was successfully introduced on *Aug.* 31. and ℔ iiss of water drawn off, yet the cause remaining, the effects speedily returned, and therefore the remedy was temporary only, and not effectual.

During the paroxysms of pain, the rectum, by reason of its contiguity to the bladder, was likewise affected, hence those frequent and violent strainings and motions to stool, which were not in the

* An ingenuous acknowledgment of our mistakes, is as useful as a relation of our successful practice.

leaſt relieved by any diſcharge. Theſe were very unfavourable ſymptoms. What is obſerved by one of our ableſt phyſicians and writers now living upon another occaſion may be applied to this, "Inter mali morbi ſigna ducenda ſunt omnia ex- "creta ſi non ſecundum rationem eveniunt; ſi a "vitio nil demunt; multo pejus eſt ſi morbo "addunt."* And indeed theſe irritations and ſpaſms of all the parts near the bladder, evidently proved the inflammatory ſtate of that organ threatning a fatal event.

From the foregoing obſervations it appears indiſpenſably neceſſary to make a juſt and accurate diſtinction in reſpect to the cauſes of a ſuppreſſion of urine, that a proper method of cure may be aſcertained. *Heiſter* gives ſome uſeful cautions on this occaſion.§ In the caſe now recited experience proves, that when a ſuppreſſion of urine happens in conſequence of an inflammation of the bladder, either in its neck or internal membrane, from whatever cauſe, then the uſe of the catheter is not only highly improper, but extremely dangerous.

On the other hand, when urine is retained in the bladder from a weakneſs in that organ, either from a paralyſis of its muſcles, as frequently happens in old conſtitutions, or in women after delivery from the preſſure made by the child, in thoſe circumſtances it is neceſſary to introduce the inſtrument, that the bladder freed from its load may have liberty to contract again, and recover its tonic

* *Glaſs* de Febribus Comment. 4

§ *Heiſter*'s Surgery, Part 11, Chapt. 137.

powers,

powers. In one caſe, the diſeaſe conſiſts in the bladder not being able to contain any urine at all, on account of ſucceſſive ſpaſms; in the other, becauſe it is become incapable of irritation, and diſtended with too great a quantity. This eſſential difference the concomitant ſymptoms plainly diſtinguiſh. In the firſt caſe, frequent ſpaſms, with hardneſs of the pulſe, pain in the bowels, and other ſigns according to the age, ſtrength and habit of the patient, and the efficient cauſe of the diſeaſe, denote great inflammation and violent contraction of the bladder. In the latter, an uneaſy ſenſation of fullneſs without violent pain, and a perceptible ſwelling in the region of the pubis, ſhew that the bladder is too much relaxed and diſtended. In inflammation therefore the cure conſiſts in bleeding, purging, warm bathing, and opiates, but the uſe of the catheter is forbid. In relaxation oppoſite meaſures are to be purſued, the catheter is to be introduced, and afterwards, by the aſſiſtance of the bark and other corroborants, the diſeaſed organ will be rendered capable of performing its uſual offices.

From this digreſſion I now return to the caſe deſcribed, and having condemned in this inſtance the uſe of the catheter, ſhall relate more particularly the method of cure which the phyſical gentlemen (to whoſe care and ſkill the patient owed his life) ſo ſucceſsfully purſued.

The propriety of copious bleeding in all inflammatory diſeaſes, particularly of membranous parts, being ſufficiently obvious, that evacuation

was

was frequently repeated; the violence of pain and the fullneſs of the pulſe indicated the neceſſity of it. When an organ of ſuch importance as the bladder is affected, bleeding *etiam ad deliquium* is requiſite, becauſe during a ſyncope, the contracted membranes will often relax of themſelves. This patient loſt blood ten times in the ſpace of three days, and in conſiderable quantities: at the ſame time plentiful dilution with warm liquors, emollient medicines and emulſions was preſcribed, with the intention of rendering the obſtructed veſſels of the diſeaſed organ pervious, and likewiſe of abating the acrimonious quality of the urine, that it might be leſs capable of exciting irritation. Gentle anodynes too were adminiſtered, warm bathings were uſed, and the region of the pubis anointed with an anodyne liniment: aperitive and emollient glyſters, with tinct. thebaic. added, were thrown up at proper intervals, in order to keep the rectum empty, and take off all preſſure from the bladder. But notwithſtanding theſe prudent meaſures, the ſpaſms ſtill becoming more frequent and ſevere, with agonizing and inceſſant pain, not to be deſcribed, recourſe was more boldly had to the grand ſpecific, opium. And here it muſt be obſerved, that in all caſes wherein it is abſolutely neceſſary to abate pain by means of opium, *we ought to purſue that intention till the effect is produced.*† This rule hath not been ſufficiently explained

† Amongſt the many obligations which the medical world owes to *Sydenham*, the recommendation of anodynes, in various caſes, is none of the leaſt. Treating of the Bilious Cholic

plained and inſiſted upon by the medical writers: and ſome phyſicians, in conſequence of a practice too timid in this reſpect, by not giving proper quantities of this noble drug, have failed in their purpoſe in caſes of great emergency. That it was abſolutely neceſſary to proſecute the intention here recommended in the inſtance now before us, appears evident from the nature of the diſeaſe; becauſe during the violence of pain and of ſpaſms, no water could properly paſs through the bladder: what little urine was voided came away in the intervals of thoſe ſpaſms: a circumſtance which pointed out the remedy. The obſervations made by the great Dr. *Mead*, in regard to the diſcharging of gravel, are founded upon the ſame principles of reaſoning urged here; for whether inflammation ariſes from ſtones or gravel in the bladder, or from ſome other cauſe, the effects of irritation are ſimilar. After recommending anodynes, "a "ſtone (ſaith he) is never forced out while the "patient is in great torture; though when the "pain ceaſes, it ſometimes comes away unex-"pectedly, and almoſt of its own accord, with "the urine. And the reaſon of this is, that pain "conſtringes the fibres of the parts, which reſume "their natural ſtate, and perform their functions

Cholic, he ſays, "I could never take off violent pains with-"out a larger doſe than is uſual, and that repeated too; "for that which is ſufficient to conquer another diſeaſe, will "be wholly inſufficient in this caſe, the violence of the diſ-"eaſe ſubduing the force of the medicine; and it is indeed "ſafe to repeat anodynes while ſuch a pain as this continues "violent."

"properly

" properly, when the troubleſome ſenſation is " over."*

The practice of giving large quantities of opium in ſpaſmodic complaints is well known and recommended, for inſtance in the locked jaw,§ nor need we apprehend any ill effects from it. We are ſometimes indeed led to ſuppoſe, that there are particular idioſyncraſies in ſome conſtitutions, which do not ſo well admit the uſe of opium; but the urgent circumſtances of extreme pain and violent ſpaſms, entirely ſuperſede all other conſiderations. For it matters not much even if the membranes of the brain ſhould be affected, becauſe that diſorder ſoon wears off, and is amply compenſated by procuring eaſe and ſafety to the patient. The great point therefore which we wiſhed to obtain in the preſent caſe, was a remiſſion of thoſe violent ſtrainings, which in the irritable ſtate of the bladder, aggravated the diſeaſe, and by long continuing, threatened a mortification. To obviate this danger, *four grains* of opium were given at a doſe, till in the ſpace of twenty-four hours the patient had taken *twenty grains* of that medicine, and to aſſiſt in the ſame intention, a plaiſter of opium was applied all round the abdomen. Theſe methods, though their effects were not immediately viſible, yet they doubtleſs were conducive to the cure. For at length, after ſevere rigors, a favourable criſis hap-

* *Mead*'s Works, quarto edit. p. 529.

§ Vid. *London* Medical Obſervations, vol. 1, article 1ſt, by Dr. *Silveſter*.

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pened, the bladder was ſuddenly relaxed, and the urine came freely away: but yet we had at firſt ſome reaſon to doubt whether that ſymptom was a ſalutary criſis of the diſeaſe, or a fatal prelude to a mortification. Much depended on the goodneſs of conſtitution, and nature (to whom all medicine is only an aid ſecondary and ſubordinate) having procured a reſpite from pain, fortunately prevailed and relieved herſelf in this dangerous extremity.

At the time when this criſis happened, the patient was in a ſtate of inſenſibility, owing partly to the effects of opium, and partly to the urinous ſalts, which being thrown back into the circulation by the violence of the diſeaſe, had made ſome impreſſion upon the membranes of the brain. But theſe effects gradually wore off; and though the ſpaſms and rigors in ſome degree remained, yet the intermiſſions became longer, and care was taken to prevent the return, by repeating, at proper intervals, and in leſs quantities, the doſes of opium. Thus by degrees the bladder being free from irritation, recovered its uſual tone, and performed its office without pain: the patient ſoon regained his ſtrength, and feels no ill conſequences from his diſorder.

Having by this remarkable inſtance proved the ſalutary effects of opium in inflammations of the bladder, it is neceſſary to make ſome obſervations upon a paſſage in *Hoffman*, which directly and abſolutely forbids the adminiſtration of ſo ſucceſsful a remedy. Speaking of inflammations, he ſays,

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" Inſtar axiomatis practici hoc loco notari velim,
" in inflammationibus nervoſarum & membrana-
" cearum partium ut in phrenitide, pleuritide,
" hepatitide, item in inflammatione ventriculi,
" inteſtinorum & *veſicæ*, nil perniciosius eſſe, &
" quod tam facile ad mortem perducere queat,
" opiato remedio interno. Stuporem enim hiſce
" partibus facile inducit & in minimis vaſculis
" motum & progreſſum ſanguinis penitus ſiſtit,
" ut ſphacelus ac mors inducatur. Quare cautiſ-
" ſime cum ejuſmodi remediis, etiam exterius ap-
" plicatis hiſce in morbis agendum eſſe moneo ac
" inculco ſerio, compluribus lethiferis exemplis
" hanc obſervationem confirmantibus.*

But the teſtimony even of ſo famous an author as *Hoffman*, however poſitively delivered, cannot invalidate facts, which on the contrary, are of themſelves ſufficient to confute his ſingle opinion; beſides his arguments in this point ſeem to be not founded on reaſon; for as to the operation of opium retarding the circulation of blood through the ſmall veſſels, it is an effect which we frequently wiſh to produce, particularly in inflammations, when the blood is urged with too much impetuoſity into the *minima vaſa*, by which means their canals become obſtructed, and in conſequence of a diſeaſe ſo formed, mortification often enſues. Therefore upon the very principles which *Hoffman* condemns, experience directs the uſe of opium. In inflammations of membranous parts, eſpecially

* *Hoffm.* tom. 2, ſect. 2, l. 9, p. 156.

of

of membranous receptacles, that conſtriction of the fibres which pain occaſions, and thoſe unnatural ſpaſms and irritations which continually torture the patient, are urgent proofs of the neceſſity of adminiſtering ſuch a medicine as ſhall quiet thoſe deſtructive ſymptoms: for they not only render the organs affected incapable of performing their offices, but likewiſe by ſtimulating, cauſe them to injure their own texture. And does not this extreme neceſſity entirely ſuperſede every minute conſideration? Shall we be deterred by fallacious reaſoning of its effects from uſing that medicine, whoſe virtues in theſe caſes, repeated experience hath proved? It muſt not be inferred from theſe ſtrictures that I think opium a ſpecific merely of itſelf; other means ought undoubtedly to be uſed, which every prudent phyſician knows how to preſcribe; but in ſpaſmodic affections of membranous parts, no other medicine will equally ſucceed. It is with reluctance, and even diffidence, that I preſume to paſs any cenſure upon ſo celebrated a name as *Hoffman*, but the greater the authority of a writer is, ſo much the more dangerous are his errors, and conſequently the more pains ſhould be taken to confute him when we have facts and experience on our ſide.*

I might

* I obſerve that this opinion of *Hoffman* is quoted by Dr. *Brookes* in his *Practice of Phyſic*, and as that book is much in the hands of young practitioners, a refutation of ſuch erroneous doctrine appeared more neceſſary. And here, upon a review of thoſe *farrago's* in medicine, publiſhed by ſome authors, I cannot help remarking how much a new and correct ſyſtem of phyſic and ſurgery is wanted. The many late

I might here enlarge on the efficacy of opium in ſeveral other inflammatory diſeaſes, namely cholics, fevers, ſtrumous and venereal opthalmies, when given judiciouſly in proper quantities, and the effects of it calculated to take place at the time of the acceſs of pain or fever. But theſe caſes I reſerve for ſome future opportunity; one only I ſhall briefly relate.

On *Sept.* 11. A young gentleman, ſubject to ſpaſmodic colics, was taken ill with a fit of that diſorder. The pain was ſevere and conſtant, particularly on the right ſide of the abdomen, affecting the peritoneum; he vomited, though not frequently, and there was but little bile diſcharged. This day he was bled and took ſome common

improvements made by eminent ſurgeons in their profeſſion, as well as by phyſicians in the elegance and efficacy of preſcription, and the ſucceſsful treatment of diſeaſes, would render ſuch a work highly valuable. The taſk indeed is too arduous and extenſive for any one man ſingly to undertake, on account of the hurry of buſineſs, the uncertainty of health, and the ſhortneſs of human life; but by the united labours of a body of the moſt experienced phyſicians and ſurgeons, wherein each individual might exerciſe his peculiar talent in different departments, the whole might be compleated. An elegant but imperfect ſketch we have already in Dr. *Mead*'s *Monita & Præcepta Medica*. Perhaps in the Acta Medica of the college of phyſicians, which we hope will ſoon appear, ſomething of this nature may be attempted; and from the ſkill and abilities of many members of that learned body, much may be expected, whether they chooſe to exerciſe their genius in ſyſtematical writing, as moſt ſuitable to the dignity of the college, or in detached pieces, and the relation of particular caſes, according to the practice of other Societies.

opening

opening mixture, which operated once or twice, but the pain continued.

Sept. 12. The ingenious phyſician who was conſulted, thus preſcribed in the morning,

℞ Sal. cathart. amar. ʒii, ſolv. in aq. font. ℔i.

℞ Mercur. dulc. ſexies ſublim. gr. viii, mucilag. q. ſ. m. f. pil.—Deglutiatur pilula quamprimum, elapſa dein hora bibantur ſolutionis ʒiv, duæque poſtea ſingulis horis donec ſatis ducta fuerit alvus.

In the Evening,

℞ Opii puri gr. ii, camphor. gr. iii, balſ. peruv. q. ſ. m. f. pil. ii, quamprimum ſumendæ.

Injiciatur dein enema quod habeat ſal. cathart. amar. ʒii, aq. font. ℔iß.

℞ Gum. ammon. gr. vi, mercur. dulc. ſexies ſubl. gr. ii, opii puri gr. i, balſ. peruv q. ſ. m. f. pil. ii, ſecundis horis donec ceſſaverit dolor ſumendæ.

Of theſe the patient took four doſes in twelve hours, with advantage, but his head ſeeming to be a little affected, the uſe of them was for a while omitted.

But on *Sept.* 13, as the pain returned, the fol- was the preſcription:

Repet. enema.

℞ Sp. minderer. ʒiv, aq. cinnam. ſimp. ʒiß. tinct. thebaic. gt. xxxv, ſyr. e mecon. ʒii, m. f. hauſt. quamprimum dandus & ſecundis horis repetendus donec ceſſaverit dolor.

℞ Sal. cathart. amar. Mann. opt. ſing ʒii, ſolv.

in

in aq. font. ℔i, cras mane dentur cochl. ii, bis in horis donec ducta fuerit alvus.

The patient took all the draughts in the ſpace of the night, and was much better, without any diſturbance from the opiate:—This practice, however bold it may appear to ſome, was rational, and ſo great was the ſucceſs, by giving large doſes of anodynes along with cathartics and glyſters, that the patient was in effect quite well the fourth day, whereas in former attacks he hath lain ill for a fortnight or three weeks.

In venereal caſes an inflammation of the bladder is a frequent ſymptom: for the internal membrane or coat of the urethra being continuous, the irritation from the virus, in the glands of that canal is communicated to the bladder. This irritation is more or leſs from various cauſes, owing to the conſtitution and regimen of the patient, and the degree of the diſeaſe. An imprudent uſe of purges, eſpecially draſtic ones, increaſes it: an enlarged proſtrate, either in conſequence of venereal or ſcrophulous acrimony, or former injudicious treatment,* will cauſe an aggravation of the ſymptoms. When ſpaſms enſue (neceſſary evacuations being premiſed) opium is a ſpecific.

* How cautious ought youth to be (if youth would think) of the management and the effects of claps; for by repeated infection the canal of the urethra is contracted, the proſtrate gland enlarged and made ſchirrous, the ſeminal veſſels obſtructed, and the generative faculty in all its organs impaired and even diſabled: the conſequences of which are ſeverely felt by an imperfect and diſtempered progeny.

On

On *Feb.* 27, *R. B.* after taking ſome rough purges for a gonorrhea, applied for relief, complaining of frequent ſtrainings to make water, with a burning heat, which increaſed the ſtimulus: the venereal diſcharge was almoſt ſtopped. I enjoined reſt in a recumbent poſture, and directed as follows:

Mittantur ſanguinis ℥xvi.

℞ Decoct. commun. pro clyſter. ℥xii,
Ol. Olivar. ℥iii.
Opii puri ſolut. ʒi, m. f. enema ſtatim poſt venæſectionem injiciend.

℞ Opii puri gr. i, 4ta quaq. hora ſumend. donec ceſſaverint veſicæ irritationes—bibat etiam emulſ. commun ℥iv. poſt ſing. pil. narcotic.

Feb. 28. The patient much better, but neglecting to take his medicines at proper times, and refuſing confinement,

On *March* 2. The ſpaſms returned.

Mittantur ſanguinis ℥xvi.

℞ Amygd. dulc. excortic. ʒi.
Gum. arabic. ℥ß.
Sacch. alb. ʒvi, ſimul optime contundantur cum aq. flor. aurant. in paſtam molliorem cujus ſumat. Q. N. M. major. in aq. tepid. ℥iv, ſolut. 4ta quaq. hora.

This was ordered for conveniency, and is a very uſeful formula in private practice, ſerving as a portable orgead, or making an extemporaneous emulſion.

Mar. 3. The irritations to make water ſtill continuing

tinuing, and even increaſing, the patient ſubmitted to confinement, and kept his bed,

Mittr. ſang. ℥xii. h. nona matutin.

Repet. enema.

Repet. pil. narcot. (quæ gr. i, opii habeat) cum emulſ. ſumend. 2da quaq. hora urgent. dolore.

Mittr. ſang. ℥xii. h. nona veſpertin.

Repet. enema ſi non ducta fuerit alvus.

Mar. 4. The patient much relieved, and in proportion as the painful ſymptoms abated, leſs quantities of the opiate were adminiſtered, and the rectum all along kept open by gentle aperitives and glyſters.

Mar. 5. Continues better.

Mittr. ſang. ℥x.

During the ſpace of theſe three laſt days, plentiful dilution was ordered, to the quantity of one pint of warm liquid every hour, or every two hours, according as his ſtomach could bear it: and this was done for the following reaſons, which have been hinted at in the former caſe; the urine when it is ſecreted ſlowly through the kidneys, becomes more loaded with ſalts, whoſe acrimony will naturally excite a greater degree of irritation in the bladder: this we find to be the caſe even in health, from a ſmall quantity of urine thus ſaturated (after ſleep for inſtance) occaſioning an equal ſtimulus with a larger quantity more diluted. This acrimony is abated by copious drinking of ſmall lubricating liquors, which quicken the ſecretion, a circumſtance highly neceſſary, eſpecially

eſpecially in an inflammatory and irritable ſtate of the bladder, when the urine ought to be rendered as mild as poſſible. Moreover, the obſtructed veſſels will ſooner become pervious, and the tenſion of the membranes relaxed, in conſequence of warm aqueous fluids, internally and externally applied. This reaſoning holds good in ſlighter caſes of dyſury in gonorrheas of the urethra only, notwithſtanding I obſerve the ingenious and experienced Mr. *Fordyce* hath given a caution againſt plentiful dilution.* In reſpect to nitrous medicines I agree with him, but as to the quantity of ſimple lubricating liquors proper to be drank, I differ; for it is not the quantity of urine ſecreted, but the acrid quality of it which excites frequent and painful ſtimulation. And again, in inflammations of the internal coat or membrane of the urethra, where the pain in making urine is conſiderable, or eſpecially if there is any tendency to ſpaſms, I uſe opium more freely than common practice hath hitherto directed. But to return to our patient.

On *Mar.* 6. He was ſo well recovered (tho' much reduced) as to go abroad, and the bladder performed its office without pain. However there occurred a circumſtance which ought to be mentioned. It was expected after ſuch large evacuations, and in conſequence of ſuch plentiful dilution, that the fluids in every veſſel of the body would have been entirely changed and become purified, as in

* *Fordyce*'s Review of the Venereal Diſeaſe, and its Remedies.

an infant ſtate; but as ſoon as the patient recovered ſtrength, the running from the urethra appeared again, and was attended with ſuch acrimony as to occaſion a ſevere chordee. This is a manifeſt proof of the validity of what Mr. *Fordyce* advances in oppoſition to *Boerhave*'s doctrine, that the antiphlogiſtic method, tho' proſecuted to an extreme, will not eradicate the venereal virus, when the proſtrate gland is affected: and therefore on account of the activity and obſtinacy in this ſpecies of poiſon, I was obliged to have recourſe to mercurial inunction, together with pills compoſed of *arg. viv. & pulv. rhei*, by which means the patient was perfectly cured.

In reſpect to thoſe obſtructions in the urinary paſſage, which require the uſe of bougies, I ſhall only here enter one caution: in caſes where any ſymptoms of inflammation remain, an indiſcriminate application of them occaſions many inconveniences. But a more particular account of theſe celebrated remedies will be the ſubject of ſome future paper.

Obſervations on the Conſtitution of the Air, and the prevailing Diſeaſes.

THE effects of the atmoſphere upon human bodies, have in different ages and nations, much engaged the attention and enquiry of medical writers. In our country two great men have particularly diſtinguiſhed themſelves by obſerving the

the various changes and conſtitution of the air, and deſcribing the epidemical diſeaſes thence produced; I mean *Sydenham* in the laſt century, and *Huxham* in this. To their accurate and judicious remarks concerning the uſe and importance of inveſtigating the properties of the air in different ſeaſons, it would be preſumptuous in me to attempt to add any thing: what I have to offer under this article at preſent will be very imperfect, and intended rather as the means of aſking information from others, than of communicating any material intelligence myſelf: for it cannot be expected that any one practitioner, reſiding in one place, ſhould be able to give an account of the general conſtitution of the air, becauſe his obſervations muſt of courſe be limited to the particular ſphere in which he acts, and therefore an extenſive correſpondence from various parts is requiſite to ſupply this deficiency.

Amongſt thoſe who are converſant in the hiſtory of diſeaſes, it hath been matter of ſpeculation to account for the reaſons why an epidemical conſtitution of air is leſs frequent than formerly in *England*. The plague for inſtance, to the dreadful ravages of which this nation was often ſubject, hath not viſited us ſince the years 1665 and 1666, notwithſtanding it has raged in ſome parts of *Europe* within this century, and as near to us as *France* in 1720; and altho' on account of that promiſcuous commerce carried on from hence in every part of the globe (in a manner extenſive beyond any example that the annals of the world

can produce) we might reaſonably be alarmed with the apprehenſions of having the plague introduced by various means from ſome infected place: yet this calamity hath not lately happened, and may not perhaps ever appear in *England* again.

But to what cauſes then do we owe our ſecurity? are we preſerved by the natural happy temperament of the atmoſphere in which we breathe? by the frequent changes and variations of it to which this climate is ſubject? or by the healthful ſtate of our own bodies, and ſome circumſtances in our manner of living?——Some have ſuppoſed that luxury, by introducing greater freedom and exceſs in the uſe of rich foods and fermented liquors, hath been inſtrumental in defending us againſt thoſe infectious particles in the air, which amongſt the poorer claſs of people fed upon low diet frequently produce putrid diſeaſes. How far this may be fact I cannot determine. If the whole region of the ſurrounding atmoſphere ſhould be contaminated with peſtilential vapours or *miaſmata*, it may be preſumed that the rich as well as the poor muſt be liable to infection, yet perhaps not in ſo great a degree, becauſe that firmneſs and tenacity in the blood, which is derived from the uſe of generous diet, would better enable bodies ſo nouriſhed to reſiſt the diſeaſe. But whatever reaſons may be given for the abſence of the plague, this obſervation may be made, that the laborious part of our people owe the means of defence againſt many diſeaſes to their exerciſe and employment: in large manufacturing towns for inſtance,

where

where the inhabitants are engaged in conſtant tho' not violent labour, we find fewer diſeaſes in general than might be ſuppoſed from the number of people. But in countries where the people are indolent and poor, the noxious qualities which happen to be in the air, more ſurely bring on epidemical diſorders: and perhaps this may be one reaſon why the plague rages ſo much in the *Turkiſh* dominions, where the ſubjects are kept in the moſt abject ſlavery, and having no property ſecure to them, become indifferent and averſe to labour and employment.

The induſtry of our huſbandmen and mechanics, not only keeps their bodies in proper exerciſe, but likewiſe enables them to live better in reſpect of food than the common people in other nations do, or than they formerly did in this; a circumſtance which probably adds to their defence againſt the effects of a bad diſpoſition in the air. Nor muſt we omit obſerving, that the employment of their minds contributes alſo to the preſervation of their health, as rendering them leſs ſuſtible of thoſe impreſſions upon the imagination, which ſometimes produce an hypochondraical habit, and expoſe the body to putrid and malignant diſeaſes. From theſe as well as other cauſes we may in part account for that general good ſtate of health of late years prevalent in *England*, for tho' the air perhaps, at times, has been in ſome meaſure infected, yet our bodies have been better able to reſiſt its influence.

But notwithſtanding that happy exemption from epidemical

epidemical diſeaſes (at leaſt mortal ones) which we have long enjoyed; there have been at different times appearances of a peſtilential quality in the atmoſphere, affecting the brute creation, tho' the human ſpecies hath eſcaped. Inſtances of this are too recent in our memory to render any account of them here neeeſſary. Apprehenſions are generally formed of epidemical diſorders amongſt cattle proving forerunners of the ſame amongſt mankind: Dr. *Huxham* relates ſome examples of this nature happening in 1728 and 1733, and at the ſame time gives reaſons why cattle are firſt infected.* But theſe apprehenſions are moſtly groundleſs, though the nature and properties of that peculiar conſtitution of air, which hath a ſeparate influence, ſometimes over men, and ſometimes over beaſts, cannot eaſily be accounted for.

Although by following the example of ſo great a man as *Sydenham*, we ſhould attain ſufficient accuracy in our obſervations on the ſtate of the air

* "In obſidione *Trojana*, primo canes, mox muli, poſt homines peſte correpti fuerunt. Haud ſemel obſervavi morbum inter pecora erupiſſe primo, dein eum ipſum paulo poſt tempore in homines *epidemice* ſæviiſſe; quod & anno 1728 & 1733 fuit manifeſtiſſimum: in quibus nempe tuſſis graviſſima omnes pene equos corripuit uno alterove menſe citius quam homines.

"Quum nimirum hoc animantium genus maxime ſub dio verſetur, morboſo aeris *diatheſi* ſit valde obnoxium neceſſe eſt, non tantum aerem inquinatum inſpirando, eumque per cutis poros imbibendo forſitan; ſed dum aquas hauriunt & carpunt gramen, condenſatam quaſi ſub ſpecie roris atmoſphæram morbidis particulis contaminatam, exugunt." *Huxham. Obſerv. de Aere & Morb. Epid. p.* 3.

and

and epidemical diſeaſes, even to diſtinguiſh the genius and idiopathic character of them; yet we ſhould likewiſe find their effects varying in different habits, ſo that the ſame general diſeaſe, does not in every body produce the ſame ſymptoms: hence ariſes the neceſſity, notwithſtanding our univerſal knowledge, of attending minutely to particular circumſtances in each conſtitution, from which the curative indications muſt be taken, and accordingly different means muſt be uſed, and different medicines adminiſtered. The general properties of the air, no man, though he underſtands them, can anywiſe alter, therefore his attention muſt be employed, and his ſkill exerted in obſerving and obviating the various effects which thoſe properties may produce amongſt individuals: in each of whom he muſt examine how the diſeaſe operates in his conſtitution, by the ſame rules and methods as common practice enjoins, independant of any conſiderations relative to the influence of the atmoſphere. We may be aſſiſted it is true, in our practice, by knowing the ſtate of the air, but not abſolutely directed; nor muſt the application of remedies be indiſcriminate under a notion of their ſpecific virtues in epidemic diſtempers. It is the neceſſity of attending to theſe particular circnmſtances in all diſeaſes, that employs ſuch numbers of practitioners in the profeſſion of phyſic.

Again, in reſpect to the ſtate of the weather, it is recommended to keep a meteorological journal, and Dr. *Huxham* hath beſtowed many pages upon

upon ſuch a regiſter: but it may be aſked *cui bono?* I kept an account of this kind in 1767, but after comparing it very attentively with the effects in diſeaſes that then happened, I could not diſcover the leaſt uſe in it, and therefore it was diſcontinued. The mind ſoon tires in purſuing any object from which no uſeful and practical inference can be drawn; and beſides we find, that our patients will call for our aſſiſtance at irregular times, and upon occaſions that cannot have any relation at all to the exact point of the compaſs from which the wind blows, or to the quantity of rain that happens to fall in a day: every man, in ſhort, carries the ſeeds of ſome diſeaſes within him, which burſt forth unexpectedly from a thouſand accidental circumſtances in his conſtitution, independant of the weather.

I ſhall now proceed to ſay ſomething of the ſtate of the air and diſeaſes in 1767, which ſubject will be diſcuſſed in few words, becauſe I can only pretend to relate what occurred in the circle of my own practice. The ſtate of air produced no effects worth mentioning, and indeed ſince the late *Influenza*, we have had no remarkable epidemic conſtitution.* In reſpect to diſeaſes, I obſerved towards the latter part of the year, that putrid fevers, attended with an ulcerated ſore throat and petechiæ, were very frequent; theſe diſeaſes pre-

* In *November* and *December* there was a general diſtemper amongſt Horſes, attended with a cough, and a diſcharge from the Noſe, and great weakneſs, which killed conſiderable numbers.

vailed

vailed in *September* and *October*, and chiefly amongſt young people and children: In ſome the progreſs was extremely rapid; they to whom it proved fatal, were ſeized with violent ſickneſs, an intenſe and continual pain in the back, faintings and delirium, and died on the third or fourth day, ſo that little time was allowed for the application of remedies. The bodies of two or three of theſe people became immediately putrid, inſomuch that a very ſpeedy interment was neceſſary to prevent any ill conſequences from infection: before death a large and livid ſwelling of the eyelids appeared, which quickly turned black, and the ſkin and cellular membrane, in various parts of the body, were ſo corrupted, as frequently to ſtrip off. This was the diſeaſe in its moſt extreme and putrid degree, little ſhort of the plague.

In reſpect to the treatment of this fever, and ulcerated ſore throat, the method recommended by thoſe excellent phyſicians *Fothergill*, *Huxham*, and *Wall*, was chiefly obſerved. I found the giving of *Ipecac.* or *Tart. Emet.* in ſmall doſes, often repeated, very ſerviceable eſpecially in caſes attended with ſickneſs and looſeneſs; and indeed this mode of practice may be ſucceſsfully uſed in all fevers wherein either bilious acrimony, or putrid colluvies oppreſs the ſtomach: for nature herſelf, in thoſe circumſtances, points out the neceſſity of irritation, that the offenſive matter may be more ſpeedily diſcharged.——Vitriolic acids were plentifully adminiſtered, and had a good effect in correcting that putrid humour in the firſt paſſages,

which often occaſioned a diarrhea: particular care was taken to have a ſtream of freſh air conſtantly circulating in the rooms of the ſick, and where intenſe thirſt, and a very dry tongue required dilution, I allowed *Toaſt-water* cold; at the ſame time generous wine and cordials were preſcribed. In ſome, bliſters applied early, ſerved to abate the delirium, *pediluvia* were uſeful, and moderate doſes of anodyne medicines often neceſſary. When the proper time for giving the *Cort. Peruv.* appeared, I uſed glyſters to thoſe children who would not be prevailed upon to take ſufficient quantities by the mouth. In almoſt all the caſes which occurred, there was a deſquamation of the ſkin, and the Schneiderian membrane, through its whole extent, was affected: the reſpiration in many was laborious, and then bliſters were always ordered. It is needleſs to particulariſe any caſe, after giving this general deſcription, and as to the *formulæ* of medicines, they are eaſily adapted to the ſeveral circumſtances that may ariſe: however, I found the two following very uſeful in their reſpective intentions, on account of their pleaſant taſte, moſt of the children who refuſed other medicines taking theſe very readily:

℞ Aq. roſar. damaſc. ℥vii.
Syr. balſam. ℥i.
Sp. vitriol. fort. gt. x. m.

℞ Extr. cort. peruv.
Conſ. cynoſb. aa ʒiii
Syr. moror. q. ſ. m. exactiſſime ut fiat elect. molle.

I con-

I conclude this article with obſerving, that in the month of *December*, the meaſles appeared frequent, and though during the extreme cold weather their progreſs ſeemed rather checked, yet after the diſſolution of the froſt they returned again, but were unattended with any remarkable circumſtances.

COMMENTARIES *on* New Medical Books.

THE author of the Medical Miſcellany, on this his firſt entrance into the regions of criticiſm, feels himſelf much embaraſſed by ſeveral reflections which ariſe in his mind, enfeebling his powers, and almoſt deterring him from the proſecution of his attempt. He is ſenſible that the taſk of a commentator is not only arduous and difficult, but invidious alſo, inſomuch that nothing could have induced him to undertake it, except the neceſſity which he lies under of giving an account of the preſent ſtate of medical literature, in order to complete the plan of this work.

Whoever attempts to give a fair repreſentation of any literary performance, ought to be poſſeſſed of ſome ſhare of the ſpirit, learning, and ability of the author of it: now this does not commonly fall to the lot of a critic, for which reaſon his opinion muſt frequently be erroneous, and his abſtract inſufficient to convey a true idea of the ſentiments,

or to do juſtice to the merit of a writer. In proportion as genius, learning, ſtudy, time and other requiſites for good writing have been beſtowed upon a work, ſo of courſe it will be more difficult to exhibit a proper review of it: Moreover, it may be obſerved, that although the circumſtance of being anonymous, is in many reſpects excuſable in an author, yet if he ſhould preſume to take upon him the part of a critic, and to condemn the works of any man whoſe name is fairly expoſed to the public, whilſt he conceals his own, he would be deſervedly reproached for taking an unjuſt advantage: and the ſenſible part of mankind will always ſuſpect and call in queſtion the teſtimony of thoſe, who meanly ſheltered by their obſcurity, dare not reveal their own names, though they frequently take great liberties in cenſuring and ridiculing others. Again, when the production of a man eminent for his capacity, ſkill, and experience, is to be commented upon, it behoves us to touch the pen with a cautious—with a trembling hand; for the ideas of compariſon between the author and the critic, and their reſpective talents, will naturally ariſe, and make an impreſſion upon the readers to the diſadvantage of the latter. For theſe and various other reaſons the author of this Miſcellany, to avoid giving pain or offence, propoſes only to ſelect ſuch paſſages from any work which he reviews, as may have a uſeful tendency, chooſing to expreſs his diſapprobation by ſilence, rather than cenſure. If he ſhould happen to exerciſe ſeverity upon any occaſion, it will be when

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an author betrays an illiberality of ſentiment, incompatible with the true ſpirit of literature, and which in the opinion of all impartial and diſpaſſionate men, will appear juſtly deſerving of rebuke.

An Eſſay concerning the Cauſe of the Endemial Colic of Devonſhire, *by* George Baker, *Fellow of the College of Phyſicians and of the Royal Society, and Phyſician to her Majeſty's Houſhold.*

IN this eſſay Dr. *Baker*, (who by his eminent merit hath obtained a place amongſt the firſt of his profeſſion) undertakes to explain the origin and cauſe of the Endemial Colic of *Devonſhire*. After ſome general remarks expoſing the inutility of inveſti ating remote and obſcure cauſes, and the neglect of thoſe which are obvious and evident, he obſerves, that the preſent age hath learned to attend more to nature, and to pay due regard to thoſe cauſes which lead us directly either to the cure of diſeaſes, or to the prevention of them. The earlieſt account (ſays he) of the *Devonſhire* Colic, which I have met with, is in Dr. *William Muſgrave's Diſſertatio de Arthritide Symptomatica*, publiſhed in the year 1703. In the fifth ſection of the tenth chapter *de Arthritide ex Colica*, is this paſſage: — * "Another ſpecies of colic, particularly in *Devonſhire*, is occaſioned by too much uſe of rough and acid cyder: which is evident by its affecting thoſe only who drink it, and in proportion to the quantity they conſume; ſo that in thoſe ſeaſons which abound with apples, this

* This is tranſlated from the Latin.

"diſeaſe

" diſeaſe becomes more general; but on the con-
" trary, when there is a ſcarcity of fruit it doth not
" ſo often occur." Dr. *Baker* expreſſes his ſurprize that the author juſt now quoted, ſhould omit taking notice of the peculiar and pathognomic ſymptoms terminating in palſy or epilepſy, which diſtinguiſh the *Devonſhire* Colic, eſpecially as he appears from another paſſage in his treatiſe (hiſt. 4, chap. 10,) to be well acquainted with them; but this omiſſion is accounted for, by ſuppoſing, that the produce of apples was but ſmall in his time, conſequently the diſeaſe not ſo frequent; nor had he the opportunity of ſeeing ſo many caſes, as there was not a county hoſpital then exiſting. Dr. *Huxham* is next quoted in his *Opuſculum de Morbo Colico Damniorum*, publiſhed in the year 1739; from whoſe deſcription of the diſeaſe Dr. *Baker* readily determines it to be ſimilar to that mentioned by *Francis Citois*, phyſician to the king of *France*, and to cardinal *Richlieu* in 1617; but he diſſents from Dr. *Huxham*'s opinion, who thinks it ariſes from a ſimilar cauſe, namely the two great uſe of acids.

" Dr. *Huxham* refers the cauſe of the *Devon-*
" *ſhire* Colic, principally to a very groſs, eſſen-
" tial, acid ſalt, or tartar, with which the ex-
" preſſed juice of apples, whilſt unfermented,
" abounds. By long and frequent drinking a
" liquor of this kind, ſuch a quantity of crude
" groſs tartar is thrown into the blood, that it
" thence becomes very acrid; and not only the
" blood, but from that impure ſource, all the

" humours

" humours thence ſecreted : ſo that inſtead of a " very ſoft lubricating mucus, ſeparated by the " glands diſcovered by Dr. *Havers*, we have as it " were a ſharp coagulated matter, whence ariſes a " great pain in the joints, and impotence of their " motion. Inſtead of an exceeding ſoft lymph " to moiſten the nerves, a corroſive ichor ; and " hence epileptical attacks. Moreover, the blood " being ſaturate with ſuch a great quantity of " ſalts, they attract one the other ſtrongly, and " form greater moleculæ than can paſs through " the lymphatic arteries, ſcarce indeed through " the ſanguineous capillaries ; hence various ob- " ſtructions, and great irritation on the nervous " extremities. At length, even the bile, that va- " riouſly uſeful balſam of the body, becomes cor- " rupted, and quite enervated by the ſuperabun- " dant apple acid, though in its natural ſtate it " was deſigned to correct acidity." This is the ſubſtance of Dr. *Huxham*'s doctrine. But Dr. *Baker* doubts the ſolidity of it, and obſerves, that there is not the leaſt analogy between the juice of apples and the poiſon of lead, and that this Colic of *Devonſhire* is preciſely the ſame diſeaſe, which is the ſpecific effect of all ſaturnine preparations. Here then we firſt perceive the deſign of Dr. *Baker*'s pamphlet, and the theory which he means to ſupport ; and certain it is, that whether he is or is not miſtaken in his opinions, he hath beſtowed much pains and learning in the inveſtigation of his ſubject, proving himſelf equal to that character which he hath acquired, of being one of our beſt

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medical writers. After quoting one anonymous author, (ſuppoſed to be *M. Bouvart*) who ſeems, though imperfectly, to have entertained the ſame ſuſpicion with Dr. *Baker*, in reſpect to the adulteration of wine and cyder by litharge, our author proceeds to controvert Dr. *Huxham*'s opinion relative to the pernicious effects of acids, by obſerving, that no ſuch effects are known amongſt the eaſtern people, who drink large quantities of acid ſherbet; nor amongſt jockeys, who drink vinegar to reduce their weight; nor amongſt the poorer inhabitants of *Worceſter*, *Glouceſter*, and *Hereford*, who uſe a weak acid cyder as their common drink, nor is it ſhewn that *Rheniſh* and *Moſelle* wine have produced the colic of *Poitou*, in an unadulterated ſtate. As to the eſſential ſalts of a vinous liquor, it is not reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that they can raiſe ſuch tumults in the bowels, when it is vulgarly known, that this very eſſential ſalt, the cremor tartari is an effectual remedy for this ſame diſeaſe amongſt the miners of *Derbyſhire*. Dr. *Hillary* likewiſe greatly depended upon it for the cure of the dry belly-ach in the *Weſt Indies*. *Zeller* ſays, that the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of *Tubingia*, had long drank wines as acid as vinegar, without any injury, till the revival of the adulteration with litharge. Add to theſe obſervations, that phyſicians who have reſided ſome time in the hotter countries teſtify, that there are no better remedies againſt ſpaſms, dyſenteries, and the other endemial diſeaſes, than the acid vegetables produced in thoſe climates: ſufficient reaſons therefore

fore appear for ſuſpecting that this colic in *Devonſhire* does not proceed from pure cyder, but from ſome fraudulent or accidental adulteration of it.

Previous to the manner of explaining this adulteration, Dr. *Baker* takes notice of the univerſality of this diſeaſe in *Devonſhire*, and adds, that it infeſts more particularly thoſe parts of the county where the greateſt quantity of cyder is conſumed: He then quotes the repreſentation drawn by *Citois* of the wretched victims of this diſeaſe (ſimilar to which are the appearances in gilders and painters, working with mercury and lead) this deſcription is ſufficiently characteriſtic, "They appear in the "villages as if maſked, or like moving ſtatues, "pale, ſqualid, and lean, with their heads incur-"vated and hanging down, incapable of raiſing "them up without art or aſſiſtance: their feet "uſeleſs as if not belonging to them; the muſ-"cles of their legs performing an aukward gait, "ſuch as would excite ridicule, if not reſtrained "by pity; and their voice hoarſe, yet ſounding." As an evidence of the frequency of this diſeaſe, a liſt is given of patients admitted into the *Exeter* hoſpital, for this infirmity, whoſe number upon an average, amounts to 70 *per annum*. In the † *Bath* hoſpital in one year, 80 patients labouring under this diſeaſe were admitted, chiefly from *Devonſhire*.

An extract from ſome letters of the very ingenious Dr. *Wall* is next introduced, in which that

† The uſe of theſe waters, both internally and externally, is recommended as a ſpecific in this diſeaſe.—I may add, that in all paralytic diſorders, occaſioned by working with mercury or lead, the *Bath* water does great ſervice.

gentleman obſerves, that the counties of *Hereford*, *Glouceſter*, and *Worceſter*, are in general free from the colic of *Poitou*, or any other endemial diſeaſe: that there is no lead uſed in any part of the apparatus for grinding or preſſing the apples: he excepts one inſtance, wherein a farmer filled a leaden ciſtern with new cyder, (till hogſheads could be obtained) the conſequence of which was, that all who drank it were affected as the lead-workers uſually are.

In order therefore to come to the point, and to demonſtrate the cauſe of the *Devonſhire* Colic, Dr. *Baker* takes notice, that the cyder-makers of that county uſe lead in cramping their ciſterns, and filling up the interſtices between the ſtones; that it is a common practice to line their cyder-preſſes with lead, or to make a border of lead round them, and in ſome places to nail ſheet lead over any cracks or joints in the preſſes; to convey the juice of the apples in leaden pipes; and that ſome farmers, in managing their weak cyder, made early in the year from unripe fruit, put leaden weights into the caſks to prevent the liquor growing ſour:—By ſome, or any of theſe means, it unavoidably happens, that the apple juice muſt come in contact with this poiſonous mineral; and to aſcertain more clearly the mode of union which takes place between wine or cyder and lead, the doctor proceeds to theſe obſervations: "The expreſſed "juice of the grape or of the apple, has a conſi- "derable quantity of acid united with the ſaccha- "rine matter. This juice when ſubjected to fer-

"mentation,

" mentation, has its acid, during the progreſs of " that fermentation, gradually aſſimilated, and " converted into an alcohol or inflammable ſpirit. " But if the original juice or muſt be crude and " acid, without having much ſaccharine matter " in it, the native acid is with difficulty aſſimilat- " ed: or when it arrives at the proper period of " aſſimilation, it does not remain there ſtationary, " but haſtens on to the acetous fermentation. " When lead is added to ſuch wines, their acidity " is covered, a ſweetneſs is communicated to them, " and their acetous fermentation is checked. The " richer wines are leſs liable to adulterations of " this kind, than the poorer wines of northern " climates (ſuch as *Rheniſh* and *Moſelle*) and our " *Engliſh* cyder. It is here to be obſerved, that " the vegetable acid, either in its native ſtate of " muſt, or its fermented ſtate of vinegar, or its " intermediate ſtate of cyder, very readily re- " ceives an impregnation from lead, whether it " be applied in its metalic or calcined ſtate. We " are therefore to conſider lead, when united with " wines, as in the condition of *Saccharum Sa-* " *turni.*"

Dr. *Baker* then gives an account of ſeveral experiments made upon the *Devonſhire* cyder, to prove the preſence of lead in that liquor, and afterwards makes ſome obſervations on the pernicious effects of ſaturnine medicines, notwithſtanding they have been ſo much uſed and applauded by ſome practitioners. But the limits of this paper will not allow us to follow our ingenious author

through all his arguments and quotations; and thererefore we ſhall conclude this article with the following remarks:

Notwithſtanding the proofs produced by the experiments here related, of lead being actually found in the *Devonſhire* cyder, yet the quantity of that mineral, from the doctor's own account, appears to ſome altogether inſignificant, and incapable of exciting any ſuch violent ſymptoms as are the diagnoſtic ſigns of the *Devonſhire* Colic. But this objection, formidable as it ſeems to be, againſt our author's theory, may in ſome meaſure be obviated by thoroughly conſidering the pernicious properties in general of poiſonous minerals; the immediate effects of which, however prevented, and their operation retarded by much dilution, yet we may preſume, that by conſtant uſe they muſt greatly injure the human body, particularly thoſe tender and irritable parts, the internal ſurfaces of the inteſtines, from whence ſo many fatal diſorders ariſe. Again, it is to be obſerved in praiſe of Dr. *Baker*, that the theory which he advances not only points out the cauſe of a diſeaſe, but likewiſe a remedy for it: for if the uſe of lead is ſo pernicious, is it not eaſy to make cyder without any of this mineral in the apparatus? an expedient which it behoves the cyder-makers to put in practice. But on the other hand, if the cauſe of the *Devonſhire* Colic conſiſts in the eſſential properties of the cyder, the common liquor of the inhabitants, as Dr. *Huxham* and others ſeem to think, how is this baneful property to be corrected?

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What ſubſtitute can be found to ſupply the wants of the people, if cyder cannot ſafely be uſed? They are therefore only informed of a miſchief which they cannot prevent, and ſtill muſt remain the defenceleſs victims of a diſeaſe inſeparable from the uſe of the product of their own country, in one of the moſt neceſſary articles of life.

Some Obſervations on Dr. Baker's *Eſſay on the Endemial Colic of* Devonſhire. *By* Francis Geach, *Surgeon, at* Plymouth, and *F.R.S. Pr.* 1*s. Printed for* R. Baldwin, London.

MR. *Geach* in theſe obſervations appears a ſtrong advocate for Dr. *Huxham*'s opinion, concerning the cauſe of the *Devonſhire* Colic, in oppoſition to Dr. *Baker*'s theory; thinking it more probable that this diſeaſe ſhould be owing to a predominant acid in the cyder, than to the effects of lead. He imagines, that from the drinking large quantities of acid liquors, before they have acquired a proper fineneſs and ſtrength by age, much elaſtic air is produced, cauſing ſpaſms and colics; and that, as air is an elementary or conſtituent part in all bodies, it is probable that thoſe extreme pains felt in the extremities, are moſtly flatulent, ſince by rubbing the affected parts the wind is often removed or expelled.

There are ſeveral remarks in this production worth attending to by thoſe who are intereſted in the diſcovery of the cauſe of the *Devonſhire* Colic. In reſpect to the uſe of lead in the preſſes, the fact is contradicted by Mr. *Worth*, a conſiderable cyder-

cyder-maker, and by others; and at the ſame time it is proved, that the diſeaſe was predominant amongſt thoſe who drank the cyder where no lead was uſed in the apparatus. How to reconcile theſe jarring teſtimonies we know not.

Mr. *Geach* combats Dr. *Baker*'s argument drawn from the example of jockeys drinking vinegar without injury, by obſerving, that the violent exerciſe which they uſe, in all probability prevents the evils to be expected from it. Our author then paſſes by a quick tranſition from jockeys to girls, and ſays, "That certain it is, many of the latter "have deſtroyed their health, loſt the uſe of their "limbs, and oftentimes their lives, by the frequent uſe of vinegar, in order to make themſelves lean: and this may ſerve to anſwer that "argument concerning chlorotic girls (advanced "by Dr. *Baker*) who, though they may not be "troubled with *ſevere* colics from the acids and "traſh which they uſe, are nevertheleſs ſeldom "free from colical complaints; their hands too "are often ſo enervated as to be utterly unable to "graſp any thing, to carry a glaſs to their mouths, "or thread a needle. A young lady was lately "under Dr. *Huxham*'s care for a diſorder of this "kind, and was cured by anti-acids and the uſe "of the cold bath." We may however, with due deference obſerve, that other remedies for this diſeaſe in girls have been recommended by ſome able phyſicians, and uſed with great ſucceſs.

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An Anſwer to the Obſervations of Mr. Geach, *and the Curſory Remarks of Mr.* Alcock *on Dr.* Baker's *Eſſay on the Endemial Colic of* Devonſhire, *by Dr.* Saunders. E. Dilly *in the* Poultry, *pr.* 1*s.*

IF Mr. *Geach* hath appeared as a *ſtrong* advocate for Dr. *Huxham*'s theory, Dr. *Saunders* here enters the liſts as a very *warm* opponent to Mr. *Geach*, in favour of Dr. *Baker*. This great medical duel ſeems to be chiefly fought by the ſeconds. It were to be wiſhed however, when gentlemen of the faculty happen to differ in opinion (a circumſtance not uncommon) that they would obſerve a regard to decorum in their controverſies. For want of this neceſſary caution Dr. *Saunders*'s performance will appear to many as containing more invective than argument; for inſtance, in page the firſt, he ſays, "The former (viz. Mr. *Geach*) ap-
"pears to me in the character of one who is
"deſirous of neglecting no opportunity of pay-
"ing every mark of reſpect and adulation to a
"great name; for his portion of this curious
"compound, contains little, very little more than
"a dull, unintereſting, uninſtructive repetition of
"a vain unſubſtantial theory, together with an
"addition of much falſe reaſoning from his own
"private ſtock, and an abundance of miſrepre-
"ſentation." Again, "indeed this man's argu-
"ments do every where appear to me to reſemble
"thoſe ſlender incorporeal beings, thoſe *tenues*
"*ſine corpore vitæ* which the poet ſuppoſes to flut-

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" ter about in the other world, *cava ſub imagine* " *formæ.*"

After ſuch an exordium, what can be expected? Moderation and temper are the ſureſt guides to truth, and when authors depart from thoſe guides, it is but unprofitable labour to fatigue ourſelves with hunting after their opinions.

But we now think it high time to diſmiſs this ſubject; leaving the deciſion of the controverſy, whether acid or lead is the cauſe of the *Devonſhire* Colic to future proofs: as to what Mr. *Moore* obſerves concerning the leaden ſhot in the bottles containing the cyder that was made uſe of in one of Dr. *Baker*'s experiments, we think it tends rather to confirm the general poſition of the doctor; for ſuppoſing the cyder could be impregnated with ſome portion of the mineral, by a ſmall quantity of lead molded in a globular compact form, there is much more probability of its imbibing a greater quantity of the metalic particles from an expanded ſurface, uſed in the manner as Dr. *Baker* tells us it is in the *Devonſhire* preſſes.

I proceed now to give a ſummary view of the other medical productions in 1767, reſerving a more particular account for ſome future opportunity. The introduction of *the new method of Inoculation* gave riſe to a conſiderable number of pamphlets, ſome of them wrote by men of eminence. Mankind ſeemed to be particularly inquiſitive about this ſubject, and ſome of the faculty perhaps were not very well pleaſed to find ſo beneficial a practice, in great meaſure, taken out of their

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hands, and carried on to an extent beyond any example before in *England*, tho' in ſome reſpects in a ridiculous manner, and ſavouring too much of empiriciſm. As this innovation will conſtitute a remarkable æra in the medical world, it is propoſed hereafter to give a clear, circumſtantial, but ſuccinct account of the riſe and progreſs *of the* Suttonian *or new method of inoculation*, together with ſuch a diſquiſition, concerning the principles and merits of it, as may bring the whole matter into one point of view, and ſet it in a proper light; Therefore we ſhall poſtpone our comments upon what hath been publiſhed, till we come to diſcuſs the ſubject more fully in another place.*

Beſides the pamphlets upon inoculation we were favoured the laſt year with ſeveral miſcellaneous productions by medical gentlemen. Mr. *Kirkland*, from ſome paſſages in the antients, recommended in an eſſay,† the proſecution of the cold method in the treatment of fevers, to an extreme which few practitioners, nor perhaps himſelf, will venture to follow, eſpecially in this country; Dr. *Glaſs* had before§ given us ſome very uſeful hints relative to the effects of cold air and cold water in fevers, and indeed the ſubject deſerves the moſt ſe-

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rious conſideration. We muſt not expect in fevers ariſing from deep or latent cauſes, from diſeaſes in the viſcera for inſtance, or when nature means a critical diſcharge, that the meer extinction of heat by drinking cold water, or by having it thrown upon the ſurface of the body, will prove a radical cure, or even a ſafe method of attempting it. If that was all which is neceſſary to be done in fevers, thoſe many accurate and judicious remarks in reſpect to their different ſources, ſtages, and ſymptoms, handed down by the antients themſelves, would be of little uſe, when ſo eaſy a remedy would ſerve every purpoſe: but the caſe is not ſo: the diverſity of cauſes, effects, and conſtitutions, together with various other circumſtances, abſolutely preclude all poſſibility of eſtabliſhing any one grand febrifuge to ſuit all caſes.*

* The remaining productions of the year 1767, being too numerous to be brought under conſideration in this article at preſent, and ſome of them deſerving a more minute examination, I ſhall therefore only give the titles of them now in this note, and proceed with the account of Medical and Chirurgical Caſes.

Medical Eſſays, &c. by Dr. *Biſſet*.—Practical Directions, by Dr. *Harvie*.—London Medical Obſervations, Vol. 3.—A Review of the Venereal Diſeaſe and its Remedies, by *William Fordyce*, Surgeon.—An Hiſtorical Account of a New Method of Curing the Scurvy at Sea, by *D. Macbride*, M.D.—Elements of the Practice of Phyſic, by *G. Fordyce*, M. D.—Eſſays Medical and Experimental, by, *T. Percival*, M.D.—The Gout, by *R. Ingram*, Surgeon.—A Treatiſe on Diet, by *F. De Valangin*, M.D.